

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 SSM-03 EUR-12 DOE-15 SOE-02 TRSE-00
/107 W

-----056500 190325Z /73

R 181104Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1750
INFO AMEMBASSY ABUDHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 1127
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT 419
USLO RIYADH 1506
AMEMBASSY SANA 2366
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2918

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, IZ
SUBJECT: SAUDI COMMENTS ON IRAQ

1. NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE GROUP GOT TWO SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT
POINTS OF VIEW ON IRAQ DURING VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. DUR-
ING CALL ON DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE TURKI BIN ABD
AL-AZIZ ON APRIL 17, GROUP ASKED HIM WHAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS
DOING TO GET SOVIETS OUT OF IRAQ. TURKI SAID IRAQ WAS
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FRIENDLY COUNTRY AND THAT SAUDI-IRAQI RELATIONS WERE AS
GOOD AS THEY COULD BE. EVIDENNCE OF THIS GOOD RELATIONSHIP
WAS DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN'S VISIT IN IRAQ WHICH
WAS GOING ON THAT VERY DAY. IF SOVIETS WERE IN IRAQ, IT
WAS FAULT OF BRITISH AND AMERICANS, WHO GAVE THEM OPPOR-
TUNITY. HOWEVER, SAUDI ARABIA COULD NOT INTERFERE IN
INTERNAL POLICY OF IRAQ. ROLE OF SAUDI ARABIA NOW IS TO

STAND BY IRAQ AND EXPLAIN TO IRAQIS ABOUT DANGERS FROM SOVIETS AS IT HAD DONE WITH EGYPT AND SOMALIA. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SAUDI ARABIA NOT LEAVE IRAQ ALONE WITH SOVIETS. ALSO, IF IRAQ GETS RID OF SOVIETS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SAUDI ARABIA CARRY OUT ANY PROMISES IT MAY HAVE MADE, UNLIKE THE WAY U.S. TREATED SOMALIA.

2. MINISTER OF PETROLEUM ZAKI YAMANI SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GET SOVIETS OUT OF IRAQ UNTIL ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM IS SOLVED. ONCE ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM IS SOLVED, THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR IRAQIS TO RELY ON SOVIETS.

3. COMMENT: PRINCE TURKI SEEMS TO BE MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN YAMANI ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF MODERATING IRAQ. WEST

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY VISITS, TRAVEL REPORTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA02918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780166-1044
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780446/aaaabmqg.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4f9807ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2935968
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI COMMENTS ON IRAQ
TAGS: PEPR, OTRA, MILI, MPOL, PGOV, SA, IZ, US, UR, NWC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4f9807ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014